

TURNKEY CONDO MURDERED!

A Jail Conspiracy that Resulted in the Deliberate Murder of Turnkey Condo, and the Escape of Five Criminals Awaiting Trial at the August Term of Court. Three of the Men Recaptured and Now in Jail.

One of the most horrible and cold-blooded crimes that ever stained the records, or shocked the people of Centre county, was committed within the walls of the county jail, at this place, on Friday evening last. It has been the custom, since sheriff Taylor has had charge of the county prisoners, to make an inspection of the jail each evening about eight o'clock, to see that everything was right and that all the prisoners were securely locked in their cells. As had been the usage, Mr. Jerry Condo, who had been turnkey since Capt. Taylor has been sheriff, proceeded to perform this duty, and on entering the main corridor, was attacked by two prisoners, Dillon and Green, who, armed with iron bars wrenched from their bed, were hiding in the bathroom, the first cell to the left of the door entering into the lower corridor.

THE ATTACK ON CONDO.

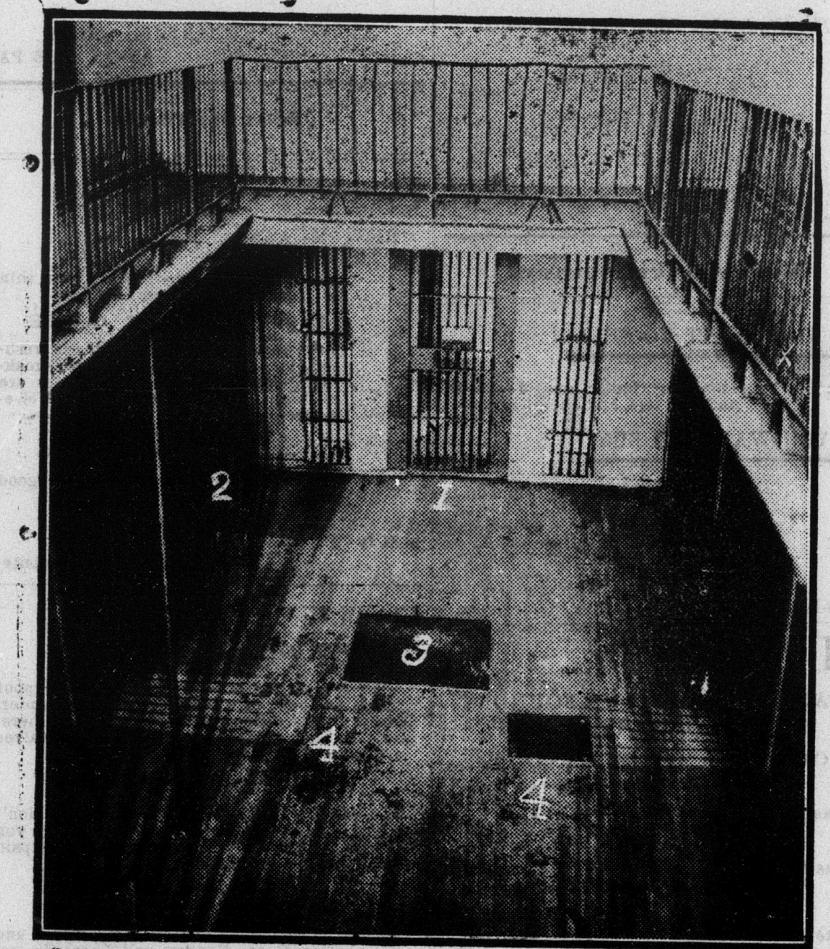
Edward McCullough, a parole prisoner, had gone into the corridor ahead of Condo on his way to his cell on the second floor. He had just reached the top of the stairway when he heard a noise. On looking around he saw Green and Dillon step from the closet, in which they were hiding, and which Condo had just passed, and strike him a blow with the bar, that felled him to the floor. Green, McCullough says, struck the first blow which felled him to the floor, but after he was down both of them continued to pound and kick him, until they thought him dead or unconscious, when they both took the keys from him and threw them up to Livingston to release the other prisoners.

Those in the jail at the time were Dominic Constance, the Italian who was awaiting trial on the charge of setting fire to the house of David Rothrock on Buffalo Run; Geo. Henderson who was under arrest for robbing Turner's store at Julian; George Livingston, claiming to be from New York, charged with stealing a horse from Miss Switzer, up Spring Creek; Ira Green, of Gum Stump, awaiting trial for the theft of a watch at Unionville; William Dillon, of Sandy Ridge, held on the charge of com-

missioning a rape, and three others, Edward McCullough, Geo. H. Kline and Simon McKee, held for minor offences.

Fearful lest Livingston would not perform his part of the job Green ran up the stairs and together they proceeded to release Constance and Henderson, who were locked in the steel cell adjoining that in which Dillon and Green were supposed to be in by Condo, when he entered the corridor to make his nightly inspection. The five prisoners, without giving any attention to the prostrate jailer, at once unlocked the large iron doors, leading into the residence portion of the jail and easily effected their escape by the main door. They were seen by a number of people, after leaving the jail, running west along the cemetery road, towards Wilson street, but no one knowing who they were or for what reason they were hurrying, paid any particular attention to them.

At the time the crime was committed there was no one about the jail, but the unfortunate turnkey, and the prisoners, Capt. Taylor being with his company at Gettysburg, his deputy Mr. Jackson, attending to matters down town, and his family enjoying the Friday night concert given at Hecla park.



INTERIOR OF THE CENTRE COUNTY JAIL.

This view was taken from the head of the iron stairs, leading from the first to the second corridors, and shows the interior of the jail from rear to front. X is the location of the cage from which Green and Dillon escaped. 2 is the bathroom in which they secreted themselves. 1 is the front door through which the unsuspecting turnkey entered. 3 is the spot where the murderous assault occurred and where the turnkey's body was found. 4 are the blood stains on the floor, the larger one being a pool as large as a hat. The spot at the head of the stairs from which this picture was taken is the position occupied by "Trusty" McCullough, who witnessed the entire scene in fear and trepidation.

hending the culprits, should they appear in their neighborhoods. On Capt. Taylor's return home from Gettysburg on Saturday morning thirty-six members of his company were sworn in as deputies, and a search of the mountains, hereabouts, was begun, at once. Parties, in addition to those sent out by deputy sheriff Jackson on Friday night, were sent out in every direction, while detective Rightnour and others made pilgrimages to Unionville, Gum Stump, Snow Shoe and other points where it was thought any of them might be in hiding.

It is presumed that immediately after getting out of the town, that each of the prisoners took his own way, as they were heard by Mrs. Ost, while in consultation just after breaking out of jail, to say that "we must separate and go in different directions or we'll be caught sure."

THE CHASE IN EARNEST.

With the dawn of Saturday morning the chase was continued with greater earnestness. From the time the prisoners passed beyond the limits of the town on east High Street, Friday evening, not the slightest clew as to the direction they took was obtained until Saturday morning when a story reached here in effect that Green had been seen and talked to in a field near Milesburg on Saturday night, which was generally believed to be true. At that time, so the story goes, he was standing in a hay field on the Koblbecker farm seemingly undecided which way to go. On being spoken to he admitted his identity and that he had gotten himself into a bad scrape, but added that while "he knew this to be a fact," he intended to "make the

best of the situation and expected to leave the country for good in a few days." The party who saw and talked to him told the sheriff that he knew him well and could not be mistaken in the person. When asked which direction he was traveling the same party said, that he "remained standing when talking to him, until after he passed out of his sight."

\$800 REWARD OFFERED.

On Saturday morning the commissioners met and at once agreed to offer a reward of \$150 dollars each for the capture of Green and Dillon, and \$100 each for the other three culprits. On Monday morning they again met and increased the reward for Dillon and Green to \$250 each. The following is the commissioners' description of the escaped prisoners and the rewards offered for their apprehension:

COMMISSIONERS' REWARD.

WILLIAM DILLON, 6 feet tall, smooth face, 3 weeks' growth of beard, dark brown hair, coarse featured, pimples on face, wears soft black hat, weighs 160 lbs.

IRA GREEN, 5 feet 8 inches, black hair, 3 weeks' growth of beard, weighs 150 lbs., round face, wears soft black hat.

DOMINIC CONSTANCE, Italian, 5 feet 6 inches, weighs 140 lbs., dark hair, speaks fairly good English.

GEO. HENDERSON, 5 feet 4 inches, chunky, weighs 150 lbs., face shaven, black mustache, long hair, tan belt with 1 1/2 inch silver ornaments.

GEO. LIVINGSTON, 5 feet 2 inches, dark brown hair, weighs 125 lbs., smooth face, dimple at eyes when he laughs, pug nose, dark complexion.

ABRAHAM V. MILLE, JOHN G. BAILEY, PHILIP H. MEYER.

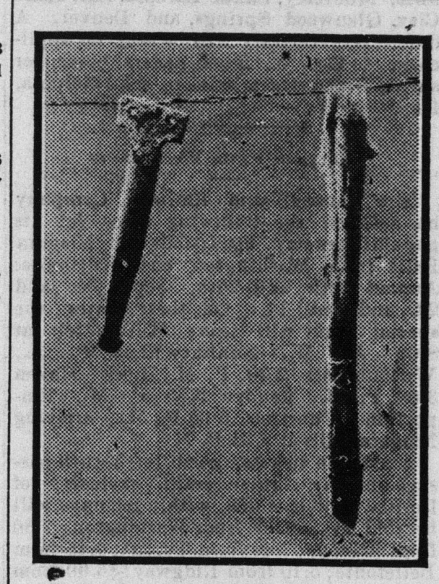
Belleville, July 30th, County Commissioners.

All of Saturday, Saturday night and Sunday poses of armed men trailed over all the surrounding territory. A report that four men had been seen in the Allegheny mountains, making their way towards Snow Shoe, took a band of men, headed by J. W. Rightnour, in that direction, but after traveling all the way to Clarence they failed to find their men. Sunday afternoon word was sent here that four men, of strange and suspicious appearance, had

Dershom. Three of the above named men had guns, and seeing the fugitives in the swamp, ordered them to come out and surrender. Realizing that escape was impossible, hungry and fagged out, the men came out and gave themselves up. They were at once taken by trolley to Lock Haven and to jail. When searched by sheriff Terence Shearer two razors were found on the men. Where they got these, the men refused to divulge.

IDENTIFICATION AND RETURN.

The men had hardly been captured and started on their way to Lock Haven when the Bellefonte posse arrived on the scene. They at once went to Lock Haven where the men were positively identified by J. W. Rightnour and "Dick" Taylor. When the news of their arrest reached here policeman George Jodou was sent down to help bring the prisoners up, arrangements being speedily made to bring them up on the train on the Central Railroad of Pennsylvania, arriving here at 9:25. A large crowd



Above are the iron bars wrenched from the beds in the cells. One is about 20 inches long and 1 1/2 inches wide. It was entirely encased in an old stocking, with the extension of the stocking forming a hand-grip and was probably designed to be used as a sort of sand-bag.

gathered in Lock Haven to see the prisoners taken away, while at Mill Hill everybody that could get there was gathered at the Central station. At every station along the road from Mill Hill up, crowds were gathered, many men with guns on their shoulders, having just come in from scouting around for the men then in captivity, but no where at all was there any demonstration of hostile intent made.

ARRIVAL AT BELLEVILLE.

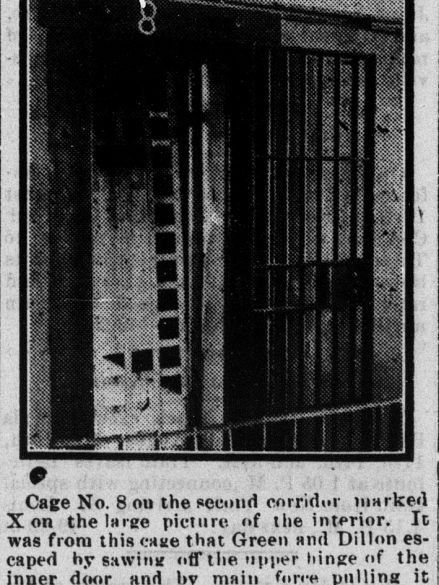
When the news spread through the town that the jail-breakers had been captured and would be brought here on the night train the excitement became intense. Before 8 o'clock crowds began to gather and a half hour before train time the space around the Central station was packed with one solid mass of humanity. Sheriff Taylor anticipated this and on the order of Supt. Gephart had the train stopped at the crossing on the road to Jacksonsville, where the prisoners, securely handcuffed and shackled, were taken from the train, hurriedly hustled into carriages in waiting and driven up the back way to the jail.

At the jail the crowd numbered several hundred people and while there were a few cries of "lynch them," "get a rope," etc., they were mostly by boys and no effort was made by anyone to interfere with the sheriff and his deputies. Once inside the men were again thoroughly searched and under the inside band of Henderson's hat was found the pointed prongs of a pair of scissors, about five inches in length, and pointed as sharp as a stiletto. The men were locked up in steel cells and policeman George Everhart was stationed as a guard over them for the night.

When arrested the men maintained that they had no knowledge of Condo's death, but when told of it, expressed no surprise. When asked as to the whereabouts of the Italian and Livingston they said that Constance had left them as soon as they got out of jail while Livingston was "still on the mountain picking huckleberries." In explanation of the latter they said that Sunday while three of them were lying down resting Livingston said he was going away a short distance to get some berries

THE TRAIL THAT ENDS IN CAPTURE.

Immediately on getting the above word sheriff Taylor, dispatched a posse of men made up of his brother, "Dick" Taylor, Thomas Caldwell, John and James Morrison and Clarence Daley, to go to Marsh Creek and see if the report was correct, and if it was, and they thought the men were the escaped prisoners, to take up the trail and follow it until the men were captured. When the four men reached Marsh Creek and got a description of the men seen, they felt certain that they were on the right track at last. Starting Sunday night they followed the men over miles of the roughest places in the foothills of the Alleghenies, out to Cato and back again down into and across the Bald Eagle valley, back and forth, until they were finally driven to bay in a swamp near Flemington, Tuesday afternoon. Tuesday morning the Bellefonte posse were so close on the trail of the prisoners that they felt certain their capture was only a question of hours. By this time the news had spread throughout the valley and dozens of men with guns joined in the chase.



Case No. 8 on the second corridor, marked X on the large picture of the interior. It was from this case that Green and Dillon escaped by sawing off the upper hinge of the inner door and by main force pulling it down and in so that they could crawl out.

to eat, and that he never came back. Sheriff Taylor feels confident that Livingston is not far away and he will keep up the hunt until he finds him and lands him back in jail. As to the Italian, Dominic Constance, it now seems beyond a doubt that he is the man picked up in Bedford Sunday evening, and yesterday sheriff Taylor went to bring him here. As the sheriff had not returned when the WATCHMAN went to

press last night it is impossible to state for a fact whether it is the Italian or not.

THE WAY THE PRISONERS WENT.

After the arrest of the three prisoners Tuesday evening, by patching their stories together, it developed that when they escaped Friday evening they went over through Armour's gap and up on the Bald Eagle mountain where they slept the remainder of the night in the peach orchard of Charles Schad. During Saturday forenoon they simply wandered aimlessly around in the same locality but in the afternoon, when Company B went up there, they were driven away. The men were in hiding when they saw the soldiers in the distance. Green was the first to espy them and, with the exclamation, "My God, boys; they have a whole regiment of soldiers after us!" jumped and ran. They traveled down the mountain to opposite Howard where they encamped for the night on the top of Bald Eagle mountain. There they remained until Sunday morning when they went down into the valley and crossed over below Howard, making their way toward Marsh Creek, their ultimate point of destination being the river. It was about 11 o'clock Sunday when they went to the Lucas home and bought three loaves of bread. This was all they had to eat during their time away, except what berries and apples they got. Sunday afternoon they wandered on out toward Cato, but, not knowing the locality, they became lost and on Monday found themselves again down near the Bald Eagle valley. By that time the searching party under "Dick" Taylor was pressing them pretty close and they crossed the valley again to the Bald Eagle mountain, hoping to get over into Nittany valley and make their escape. Tuesday morning, however, they discovered the posse that had gone down and they were driven back into the valley below Eagleville, where they went into the orchard of Wm. Hagan, and from whence they were driven into the swamp on the Geary farm, as above narrated, and shortly afterwards captured.

Mr. Condo, the murdered jailer, was a native of Gregg township, where he resided all his life until his appointment as turnkey by sheriff Taylor in January, 1903. He was nearing his sixty-second year at the time of his death, and was a man of the strictest integrity, and had the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. He served as a member of Company D, 148th P. V., during four years of the war, and for many years of his life carried on the trade of blacksmithing at Spring Mills. He was a regular attendant at the Methodist church, and lived an exemplary, christian life, always ready to do a kind act for those in need and performing every duty assigned him with fidelity. He leaves to mourn his cruel and untimely taking off, his widow and four children: Mrs. S. A. Sweetwood, of Centre Hall; Mrs. R. W. Bitner, of Spring Mills; J. I. Jr., of Orangeville, Illinois, and Miss Ida, at home; two sisters and three brothers, Mrs. Mary Roush, of Aronsburg; Mrs. Harriet Koch, of Ferguson township; ex-sheriff John P. Condo, of Sunbury; James, of Penn Hall and Jonas, of Hubersburg, at home; a host of friends who admired him for his integrity of purpose, his honesty of motives and for his sturdy and pure manhood.

His remains were removed to his home at Spring Mills on Monday and buried in the cemetery at that place on Wednesday, at 10 a. m., the funeral cortege being one of the largest ever seen in Pennsylvania.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

Sheriff Taylor did not know of the escape of the prisoners until he arrived in Tyrone Saturday morning on his way home from camp.

When the three prisoners were brought back Tuesday evening they were confined in cells on the first floor. The beds had been removed from the cells and stripped to trousers and shirt they slept on the floor that night.

After the arrest Tuesday evening Green displayed a wonderful amount of bravado which lasted only through the night, as by Wednesday he was downhearted and that evening he was so broken down he could not eat anything.

Early Wednesday morning the Lock Haven and Flemington parties, who were in at the re-capture of the prisoners, came to Bellefonte and filed their claims for the rewards offered by the county commissioners for their capture.

It is alleged that after the prisoners were captured Tuesday they declared that they would be out again in a week or so. It is safe to say, however, that they will not. A constant guard will be kept over them until they get their trial at the August term of court. Those who have already done guard duty are George Everhart, Robert Montgomery and Lieut. P. F. Garbrick.

BEDFORD MAN NOT THE ITALIAN.

Just as the WATCHMAN goes to press word was received from Sheriff Taylor at Huntingdon that the Italian captured and held in Bedford is not Dominic Constance.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

Work was begun this week on the stone wall along Spring creek on south Water street. When completed this will be an even greater improvement than the wall along north Water street.

Both Mr. Joseph L. Montgomery and James C. Furst are convalescing. They were so indisposed the fore part of the week that trained nurses were brought from Williamsport for them. William Barnside, our indefatigable insurance man though, is not quite so fortunate, as his invalidism continues. He has been in the hospital since Saturday being treated for paralysis of the vocal cords.

—Mr. and Mrs. Jobu Anderson, of south Spring street, are the proud parents of a very dear little girl that arrived at their home on Wednesday.

—Mr. E. P. Lingle has left Lemont and gone to Pitsaarn. If it be a permanent change it is one to be regretted for Centre county, because Mr. Lingle was one of the kind of citizens we can ill afford to lose.

Lemont.

Wellington Musser has not improved much during the week.

Mrs. Louis Brown visited at Oak Hall Tuesday of last week.

Harry H. Long is home for the summer vacation from dental college.

Mrs. Wm. Williams is home for a few days stay with her sister, Mrs. James Longwell.

Mrs. S. C. Bathgate is visiting friends at Altoona and Warriors-mark this week.

Andrew O'Neil, wife and son spent a few days at the home of Mrs. Lloyd L. Houtz.

Mr. and Mrs. William Mulbarger, are elated over the recent arrival of a great big son.

Edwin K. Smith entertained his Sunday school class Friday evening, and all had a royal good time.

Nicholas Barnhart had a new roof put on his house Saturday which will be a great improvement.

Miss Annie Long, of George's valley, was a pleasant caller at the hospitable home of J. W. Tressler this week.

Clayton Ethers has closed down his mill for a few days to make repairs so that he can better serve his many patrons in the future.

Sunday afternoon when H. F. Houtz drove up to George Williams' garden he saw a large black snake with a chicken in its mouth, which when killed, was found to measure more than five feet.

While Therman Tressler was attending the Linden Hall festival Saturday evening, he had the misfortune to have a thirty-two calibre cartridge ball shot through his heel from a revolver that two boys near him were examining and accidentally discharged.

Pine Grove Mentions.

E. K. Smith, of Oak Hall, did business in our town Monday.

Jacob Mayes and Wm. Frazer spent Sunday at Foster Frazer's home in Potter township.

The venerable Thomas Kustaborder is suffering an attack of vertigo at his home at State College.

Joseph A. Goss, who is holding down a fat position at Homestead steel works, is here for a few days outing.

Clayton Ethers is having a well drilled at his home. In a forty foot hole they have twenty feet of water.

Mrs. Chestie McNamara and daughter, of Altoona, are visiting her old associates at Rock Springs this week. She will be remembered as Chestie Frank.

Mr. and Mrs. John Musser, who were in attendance at the Clearfield centennial, returned home Saturday. Mr. Musser says the walking was not all taken up, either.

The many friends of Miss Dora Meyers will be glad to learn of her return from the Pennsylvania University hospital where she underwent a surgical operation for appendicitis.

P. S. Ishler has rented the old Stewart hotel at Bostburg and will soon be prepared to accommodate the public. Mr. and Mrs. Ishler are both well fitted for the new position they assume.

Postmaster J. G. Hess left for an extended visit in the Buckeye State. Will spend most of his time at Wadsworth and Medina. During his absence W. D. Port will handle the mail. He has been tried and not found wanting.

We are sorry to note the illness of P. F. Bortoff, who is suffering from an attack of typhoid fever at his home on Main street. Miss Bumgardner, a trained nurse of Pleasant Gap, is his trusted attendant.

On Sunday evening, the 14th, Rev. E. K. Harnish will preach a sermon in the Presbyterian church here to Penns valley Lodge, 276, I. O. O. F. Members of neighboring lodges are cordially invited, as well as the public.

Mr. Wesley Musser, wife and daughter, of Huntingdon Furnace, on Monday in all probability paid their last visit to his brother Wellington, who is ill with a complication of diseases, at the home of his brother Wallace, on the Branch.

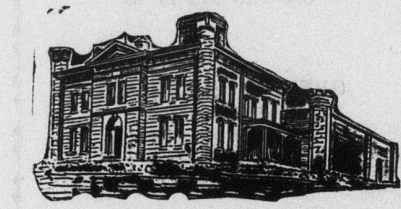
The survivors of Co. E, 45th Regt., P. V., will celebrate their 43rd anniversary Sept. 1st, at Capt. A. W. Harper's home, at Philipsburg, where a full turnout of the survivors is expected. Capt. Harper promises to show the old boys a royal good time.

G. W. and W. E. McWilliams were among the mourners at the funeral of Mrs. Gilliland in Altoona last week. Her maiden name was Maggie Burfield, a niece of the late Judge Burfield, of this place. She was a most intelligent and estimable old lady, and was one of the first students of the old Pine Grove Academy, and a class-mate of Judge Beaver.

A most terrific rain and hail storm passed over the Franklinville region on Monday afternoon. Hail fell for half an hour, destroying growing crops, and making wash-roads ten feet deep. The Thompson Bros. barn near Warriors-mark was struck by lightning and burned to the ground, together with the entire crop of grain and hay.

The old veteran, Wm. Tate, has purchased the Houser farm in Potter township. The dicker has been on for some time but was not consummated until last Friday. It consists of two sets of buildings, 120 acres of land with the landlord's share of grain and hay and a new wagon, for \$4,300, and he gets possession at once. William will turn his attention to raising fancy stock and crops.

On Thursday of last week two of our young people surprised their friends and slipped away to Maryland where they were quietly married at Cumberland, returning the following day to Altoona, where a wedding feast was served that evening at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. John Himes. The bride is the accomplished daughter of Claude B. Hess, of Baileyville, and is amply qualified to make their home a place of sunshine and bliss. The groom is a sober and industrious young man, who has a good job in the Altoona shops and is able to keep a bride in luxury. He is the youngest son of Squire J. H. Miller, of Rock Springs. The WATCHMAN extends congratulations.



CENTRE COUNTY JAIL. Scene of Friday night's tragedy.



JERRY CONDO. The 61 year old turnkey who was murdered by the escaping prisoners.

THE ALARM GIVEN.

As soon as McCullough could gather up courage he gave the alarm, and scores of citizens rushed to the jail. They found Condo bleeding and unconscious where he had been knocked down, the prisoners missing, and every thing in confusion. Doctor Feidt was summoned immediately, and upon examination decided the injuries to the jailer would prove fatal, when Dr. Seibert was called in consultation, and upon a close examination a compound fracture of the skull, and over a dozen lacerations of the scalp, were discovered.